

Senate Resolution 1335

By: Senator Cowsert of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State of Georgia to continue its efforts to establish the National Bio and
2 AgroDefense Facility in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, with increasing global trade, United States agriculture is increasingly vulnerable
4 to the introduction of diseases that could severely disrupt its economic viability; and

5 WHEREAS, a national research facility has been proposed to protect our food supply against
6 foreign and zoonotic diseases that might be introduced intentionally or incidentally; and

7 WHEREAS, there is a proposal for a national research facility equipped to fight pandemics
8 such as bird flu, combat bioterrorism, and provide hundreds of high-paying jobs on the
9 national level; and

10 WHEREAS, in these uncertain times of global terrorism, it is essential that our nation have
11 such a state of the art facility as replacement for the aging Plum Island facility; and

12 WHEREAS, the proposed \$450 million facility would bring 1,500 construction jobs, employ
13 hundreds of full-time scientists and support workers, have an estimated economic impact in
14 Georgia of up to \$1.5 billion over the next 20 years, and serve as a magnet for clean,
15 knowledge based jobs needed in northeast Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, the new facility's responsibilities would include the study of animal diseases
17 foreign to the United States, transmission of zoonotic disease between animals and humans,
18 vaccine development, and safety of the American food supply; and

19 WHEREAS, a site in Athens on the campus of the University of Georgia has been selected
20 as one of the five finalists for the possible location of the National Bio and AgroDefense
21 Facility; and

1 WHEREAS, the agriculture and infectious disease research capabilities at the university, its
2 collaborations with Georgia's other research universities, federal agencies, and industries; and
3 the biosciences workforce availability in Athens make locating the facility near the university
4 campus ideal; and

5 WHEREAS, local and state government, business, economic development, and community
6 leaders have expressed their support for locating the National Bio and AgroDefense Facility
7 in this area; and

8 WHEREAS, the placement of the National Bio and AgroDefense Facility in this state would
9 cement Georgia's role as a recognized national and world leader in this highly competitive
10 field.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
12 hereby urge the State of Georgia to continue its pursuit of establishing the National Bio and
13 AgroDefense Facility in Georgia.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Governor Sonny Perdue and to each
16 member of the Georgia congressional delegation.